

M A S

The breaking down an old frame of government, and erecting a new, seems like the cutting down an old oak and planting a young one: it is true, the grandson may enjoy the shade and the mast, but the planter, besides the pleasure of imagination, has no other benefit.

As a savage boar,
With forest mast and fatning marshes fed,
When once he fees himself in toils inclos'd,
Whets his tusks.
Wond'ring dolphins o'er the palace glide;
On leaves and mast of mighty oaks they brouze,
And their broad fins entangle in the boughs.
MA'STED. *adj.* [from *maſt*.] Furnished with masts.
MASTER. *n. f.* [*meſter*, Dutch; *maître*, French; *magiſter*, Latin.]

1. One who has servants; opposed to man or servant.
But now I was the lord
Of this fair mansion, master of my servants,
Queen o'er myself; and even now, but now,
This house, these servants, and this same myself
Are yours my lord.
Take up thy master.
My lord Bassanio gave his ring away
Unto the judge that begg'd it;
The boy, his clerk, begg'd mine;
And neither man nor master would take aught
But the two rings.

2. A director; a governor.
If thou be made the master of a feast, be among them as one of the rest.
My friend, my genius, come along,
Thou master of the poet, and the song.

3. Owner; proprietor.
An orator, who had undertaken to make a panegyric on Alexander the Great, and who had employed the strongest figures of his rhetoric in the praise of Bucephalus, would do quite the contrary to that which was expected from him; because it would be believed, that he rather took the horse for his subject than the master.

4. A lord; a ruler.
Wisdom and virtue are the proper qualifications in the master of a house.
There Cæsar, grac'd with both Minerva's, throne,
Cæsar, the world's great master, and his own.

The pride of royal blood, that checks my soul:
You know, alas! I was not born to kneel,
To sue for pity, and to own a master.

5. Chief; head.
Chief master-gunner am I of this town,
Something I must do to procure me grace.
As a wife master-builder I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.

The best sets are the heads got from the very tops of the root; the next are the runners, which spread from the master roots.

6. Possessor.
When I have thus made myself master of a hundred thousand drachms, I shall naturally set myself on the foot of a prince, and will demand the grand vizier's daughter in marriage.
The duke of Savoy may make himself master of the French dominions on the other side of the Rhone.

7. Commander of a trading ship.
An unhappy master is he that is made cunning by many shipwrecks; a miserable merchant, that is neither rich nor wife, but after some bankrupts.
A sailor's wife had chefnuts in her lap;
Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o' th' Tyger.

8. One uncontrolled.
Let ev'ry man be master of his time
Till seven at night.
Great, and increasing; but by sea
He is an absolute master.

9. A compellation of respect.
Master doctor, you have brought those drugs.
Stand by, my master, bring him near the king.
Masters play here, I will content your pains,
Something that's brief; and bid, good morrow, general.

10. A young gentleman.
If gaming does an aged fire entice,
Then my young master swiftly learns the vice.
Master lay with his bedchamber towards the south sun;
mis lodged in a garret, exposed to the north wind.
Where there are little masters and misters in a house, they are great impediments to the diversions of the servants; the only remedy is to bribe them, that they may not tell tales.

11. One who teaches; a teacher.
Vary few n en are wile by their own council, or learned

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by their own teaching; for he that was only taught by himself had a fool to his master.
To the Jews join the Egyptians, the first masters of learning.
Masters and teachers should not raise difficulties to their scholars; but smoothe their way, and help them forwards.

12. A man eminently skilful in practice or science.
The great mocking master mock'd not then,
When he said, Truth was buried here below.
Spenser and Fairfax, great masters of our language, saw much farther into the beauties of our numbers than those who followed.

A man must not only be able to judge of words and style, but he must be a master of them too; he must perfectly understand his author's tongue, and absolutely command his own.
He that does not pretend to painting, is not touched at the commendation of a master in that profession.

No care is taken to improve young men in their own language, that they may thoroughly understand, and be masters of it.
13. A title of dignity in the universities; as, master of arts.

1. To be a master to; to rule; to govern.
Ay, good faith,
And rather father thee, than master thee.

2. To conquer; to overpower; to subdue.
Thrice blessed they that master to their blood,
To undergo such maiden pilgrimage.
The princes of Germany did not think him sent to command the empire, who was neither able to rule his insolent subjects in England, nor master his rebellious people of Ireland.

Then comes some third party, that masters both plaintiff and defendant, and carries away the booty.
Honour burns in me, not so fiercely bright,
But pale as fires when master'd by the light.
Obstinacy and wilful neglects must be mastered, even though it cost blows.

A man can no more justly make use of another's necessity, than he that has more strength can seize upon a weaker, master him to his obedience, and, with a dagger at his throat, offer him death or slavery.
The reformation of an habitual sinner is a work of time and patience; evil customs must be mastered and subdued by degrees.

3. To execute with skill.
I do not take myself to be so perfect in the transactions and privileges of Bohemia, as to be fit to handle that part: and I will not offer at that I cannot master.
MA'STERDOM. *n. f.* [from *maſter*.] Dominion; rule. Not in use.

You shall put
This night's great business into my dispatch,
Which shall to all our nights and days to come
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

MA'STER-HAND. *n. f.* The hand of a man eminently skilful.
Musick resembles poetry, in each
Are nameless graces which methods teach,
And which a master-hand alone can reach.

MA'STER-TEST. *n. f.* Principal test.
Who shall break the master-jest,
And what, and how, upon the rest.

MA'STER-KEY. *n. f.* The key which opens many locks, of which the subordinate keys open each only one.
This master-key
Frees every lock, and leads us to his person.

MA'STER-LEAVER. *n. f.* One that leaves or deserts his master.
Oh Antony,
Nobler than my revolt is infamous,
Forgive me in thine own particular;
But let the world rank me in register
A master-leaver, and a fugitive.

MA'STER-SINEW. *n. f.*
The master-sinew is a large sinew that surrounds the hough, and divides it from the bone by a hollow place, where the wind-galls are usually seated, which is the largest and most visible sinew in a horse's body; this oftentimes is relaxed or retrained.

MA'STER-STRING. *n. f.* Principal string.
He touch'd me
Ev'n on the tend'rest point; the master-string
That makes most harmony or discord to me.
I own the glorious subject fires my breast.

MA'STER-STROKE. *n. f.* Capital performance.
Ye skilful masters of Machaon's race,
Who nature's mazy intricacies trace;
Tell how your search has here eluded been,
How oft amaz'd, and ravish'd you have seen,
The conduct, prudence, and stupendous art,
And master-strokes in each mechanic part.

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MA'STERLESS. *adj.* [from *maſter*.]
1. Wanting a master or owner.
When all was past took up his forlorn weed,
His silver shield now idle masterless.

The foul opinion
You had of her pure honour, gains, or loses,
Your sword or mine; or masterless leaves both
To who shall find them.

2. Ungoverned; unblinded.
MA'STERLINESS. *n. f.* [from *maſterly*.] Eminent skill.
MA'STERLY. *adv.* With the skill of a master.
Thou dost speak masterly

Young though thou art.
I read a book; I think it very masterly written.

MA'STERLY. *adj.* [from *maſter*.]
1. Suitable to a master; artful; skilful.
As for the warmth of fancy, the masterly figures, and the copiousness of imagination, he has exceeded all others.

That clearer strokes of masterly design,
Of wise contrivance, and of judgment shine,
In all the parts of nature we assert,
Than in the brightest works of human art.

A man either discovers new beauties, or receives stronger impressions from the masterly strokes of a great author every time he peruses him.

2. Imperious; with the sway of a master.
MA'STERPIECE. *n. f.* [from *maſter* and *piece*.]
1. Capital performance; any thing done or made with extraordinary skill.
This is the masterpiece, and most excellent part, of the work of reformation, and is worthy of his majesty's pains.

'Tis done; and 'twas my masterpiece, to work
My safety, 'twixt two dangerous extremes:
Scylla and Charybdis.

Let those consider this who look upon it as a piece of art, and the masterpiece of conversation, to deceive, and make a prey of a credulous and well-meaning honesty.
This wondrous masterpiece I fain would see;
This fatal Helen, who can was inspire.

The fifteenth is the masterpiece of the whole metamorphoses.
In the first ages, when the great souls, and masterpieces of human nature, were produced, men shined by a noble simplicity of behaviour.

2. Chief excellence.
Beating up of quarters was his masterpiece.
Diffimulation was his masterpiece; in which he so much excelled, that men were not ashamed with being deceived but twice by him.

MA'STERSHIP. *n. f.* [from *maſter*.]
1. Dominion; rule; power.
2. Superiority; pre-eminence.
For Python slain he Pythian games decreed,
Where noble youths for mastership should strive,
To quito, to run, and feeds and chariots drive.

3. Chief work.
Two youths of royal blood, renown'd in fight,
The mastership of heav'n in face and mind.

4. Skill; knowledge.
You were used
To say extremity was the trier of spirits;
That when the sea was calm all boats alike
Shew'd mastership in floating.

5. A title of ironical respect.
How now, Signior Launce? what news with your master-ship?
MA'STER-TEETH. *n. f.* [from *maſter* and *teeth*.] The principal teeth.
Some living creatures have their master-teeth indented one within another like faws; as lions and dogs.

MA'STERWORT. *n. f.* [from *maſter*, and *wort*, Saxon.]
The masterwort is a plant with a rose and umbellated flower, consisting of several petals, which are sometimes heart-shaped, and sometimes intire, ranged in a circle, and resting on the empalement; which afterward becomes a fruit, composed of two seeds, which are plain, almost oval, gently streaked and bordered, and generally casting their cover; to these marks must be added, that their leaves are winged, and pretty large: the root is used in medicine.
Masterwort is raised of seeds, or runners from the roots.

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Good men I suppose to live in a state of mortification; under a perpetual conflict with their bodily appetites, and struggling to get the mastery over them.

3. Skill.
Chief mastery to dissect,
With long and tedious havock, fabled knights,
In battles feign'd.

He could attain to a mastery in all languages, and found the depths of all arts and sciences.
To give sufficient sweetness, a mastery in the language is required: the poet must have a magazine of words, and have the art to manage his few vowels to the best advantage.

4. Attainment of skill or power.
The learning and mastery of a tongue being unpleasant in itself, should not be cumbered with any other difficulties.

MA'STEFUL. *adj.* [from *maſt*.] Abounding in mast, or fruit of oak, beech or chefnut.
Some from seeds inclos'd on earth arise,
For thus the mastful chefnut mates the flies.

MASTICATION. *n. f.* [*maſticatio*, Lat.] The act of chewing.
In birds there is no mastication, or comminution of the meat in the mouth; but in such as are not carnivorous it is immediately swallowed into the crop or craw, and thence transferred into the gizzard.

Mastication is a necessary preparation of solid aliment, without which there can be no good digestion.
MASTICATORY. *n. f.* [*maſticatoire*, French.] A medicine to be chewed only, not swallowed.
Remember masticatories for the mouth.

Salivation and masticatories evacuate considerably; salivation many pints of phlegm in a day, and very much by chewing tobacco.

MASTICH. *n. f.* [*maſtic*, French.]
1. A kind of gum gathered from trees of the same name in Scio.
We may apply intercipients upon the temples of mastich; frontals may also be applied.

2. A kind of mortar or cement.
As for the small particles of brick and stone, the least moistness would join them together, and turn them into a kind of mastich, which those insects could not divide.

MASTICOT. *n. f.* [*maſticum*, Latin.] See MASSICOT.
Grind your masticot with a small quantity of saffron in gum water.
Masticot is very light, because it is a very clear yellow, and very near to white.

MASTIFF. *n. f.* [*maſtiff*, plural. [*maſtin*, French; *maſtino*, Italian.] A dog of the largest size; a bandog; dogs kept to watch the house.
As savage bull, whom two fierce mastives bait,
When rancour doth with rage him once engore,
Forgets with wary ward them to await,
But with his dreadful horns them drives afore.

When rank Therites opes his mastiff jaws,
We shall hear mulick, wit, and oracle.
When we knock at a farmer's door, the first answer shall be his vigilant mastiff.

MASTIFF. *n. f.* [*maſtiff*, plural. [*maſtin*, French; *maſtino*, Italian.] A dog of the largest size; a bandog; dogs kept to watch the house.
Soon as Ulysses near th' enclosure drew,
With open mouths the furious mastives flew.
Let the mastiffs amuse themselves about a sheep's skin stuff'd with hay, provided it will keep them from worrying the flock.

MA'STLESS. *adj.* [from *maſt*.] Bearing no mast.
Her shining hair, uncomb'd, was loosely spread,
A crown of mastless oak adorn'd her head.

MA'STLIN. *n. f.* [from *maſter*, French, to mingle, or rather corrupted from *maſcellane*.] Mixed corn; as, wheat and rye.
The tother for one lofe hath twaine
Of mastlin, of rie and of wheat.

MAT. *n. f.* [*meatre*, Saxon; *matta*, German; *matta*, Lat.]
A texture of sedge, flags, or rushes.
The women and children in the west of Cornwall make mats of a small and fine kind of bents there growing, which serve to cover floors and walls.

In the worst inn's worst room, with mat half hung,
The floors of plaster, and the walls of dung.
To MAT. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To cover with mats.
Keep the doors and windows of your conservatories well matted, and guarded from the piercing air.

2. To twist together; to join like a mat.
I on a fountain light,
Whole brim with pinks was platted;
The banks with daffadillies dight,
With grafs like sleeve was matted.